



SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.

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Dear Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program (GSHCMP) Steering Committee and Partners Group,

We hope you are keeping safe in light of recent COVID and flooding events. The GSHCMP Project Team has continued to make progress and shares this positive update with you:

Detailed investigations into stormwater management across the catchment

As you will remember from the October 2021 update, 20 Councils in the Greater Sydney Harbour catchment have joined forces to develop a Coastal Management Program (CMP) for the first time. Led by the Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG), and in partnership with the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG), these Councils are working collaboratively with the Department of Planning and Environment, Sydney Water, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Transport for NSW and Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) to better understand the impacts of stormwater discharge and the management opportunities and impediments.

The overarching objective is to enable councils, Sydney Water and relevant state agencies to collaborate more effectively in the management of urban stormwater and marine litter and in so doing address community values and expectations relating to waterway health.

Stage two of the CMP involves the delivery of three interrelated studies. The consultancy Cville has been engaged to deliver studies 1 and 2 which involves surveying and interviewing all 20 Councils in the catchment and relevant stakeholders to:

- Compile foundational information to facilitate the Greater Sydney Harbour catchment wide application of the Risk-based Framework to improve the management of stormwater discharges - **Study 1**
- Identify council needs and actions to help improve stormwater discharge and waterway health in the whole catchment - **Study 2**

For **Study 3**, RPS AAP Consulting has been recently engaged. This study aims to review options for establishing a governance and sustainable funding structure that would ensure the sustainable health of waterways of Greater Sydney Harbour including drainage from catchment sources.

Further information on the GSHCMP is available [here](#).

NSW EPA Litter Grant Funding success

As you will remember from our October 2021 update, the SCCG and PRCG have been developing a Regional Litter Prevention Strategy (RLPS) for the Greater Sydney Harbour which supports the NSW Government litter targets to reduce litter by 60% by 2030 and reduce plastics by 30% by 2025. The draft RLPS was out for public consultation in

November 2021. The feedback received, in conjunction with results from our recent discussions with the 21 councils in the Greater Sydney Harbour catchment on past and current litter prevention initiatives across the region, is proving to be most helpful in finalising the strategy. The final version is subject to EPA endorsement which is expected over the coming weeks.

We are also delighted to share with you our success in receiving additional grant funding, \$100,000 from the NSW EPA in the Own It and Act: Round 7 Community Litter Grant funding stream. This will enable actions identified in the RLPS to be implemented which includes employment of a Regional Litter Coordinator.

This year, we seek to implement the initial phases of the RLPS across the four sub-catchment areas - Parramatta River, Lane Cove River, Port Jackson Foreshores and Middle Harbour. This will involve working closely with Councils and key community stakeholders to achieve long-term litter prevention outcomes. Key elements of the project will include:

- developing a knowledge base for litter prevention through the creation of an online portal
- supporting the development of litter prevention initiatives within Councils and key organisations across the Greater Sydney Harbour
- developing and implementing targeted on-ground programs and initiatives

Further information on the RLPS is available [here](#).

Greater Sydney Harbour CMP education video

Our [Greater Sydney Harbour CMP education video](#) was shortlisted as a finalist at the International [tve Global Sustainability Film Awards](#). These awards recognise outstanding films that inspire audiences with real world solutions for a more sustainable future. Unfortunately, we didn't win but it was fantastic just to make the finalist category.

Ongoing communiques

We will continue to release communiques on an as-needs basis to keep you updated on the progress of our work. Please feel free to share this communique within your organisation.

Best wishes,



Prof. Bruce Thom
Chair, Greater Sydney Harbour CMP Steering Committee